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1. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function, said telephone capable of connecting with at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said telephone comprising:

access means for accessing to the mail server;

CK a mail memory for storing an electronic mail downloaded from the mail server through the access means;

a mail status memory for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the terminal devices, wherein said status memory means stores whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and

transmission means for transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory to one of the terminal devices, wherein the electronic mail managing function is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing function integratedly manages the electronic mail based on the status of the electronic mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

2. (CANCELED)

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3. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:

C2 a process table for storing a process to be applied to the electronic mail after the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices.

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4. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 3, said process to be applied to the electronic mail includes deleting the electronic mail and keeping the electronic mail.

5. (AS ORIGINAL) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:

emergency process means for judging whether or not a priority process is necessary based on the electronic mail received from each of the terminal devices and for executing an access to the mail server when the priority process is executed.

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6. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:

an identifier memory for storing an identifier of an terminal device to be connected, permits an access from the terminal device in case that the identifier coincides with the stored identifier.

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7. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A mail managing method in a mail managing apparatus capable of transmitting/receiving mail data to/from at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said method comprising:

a reading process of reading mail stored in the mail server;

a storing process of storing the mail read in the reading process ;

a display process of displaying a status of the mail stored in the storing process for each of the terminal devices, wherein said status includes whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and

a transmission process of transmitting the mail stored in the storing process to one of the terminal devices, wherein the mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the mail managing method integrately manages the mail based on a status of the mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

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8. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A storage medium storing a program used for a mail managing apparatus capable of transmitting/receiving mail data to/from at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said program comprising:

a reading process of reading a mail stored in the mail server;

a storing process of storing the mail read in the reading process;

a display process of displaying a status of the mail stored in the storing for each of the terminal devices, wherein said status includes whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and

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a transmission process of transmitting the mail stored in the storing process to one of the terminal devices, wherein the mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the mail managing apparatus integrately manages the mail server based on the status of the mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

9. (AS TWICE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address, comprising:

a receiving unit receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to a predetermined address; and

a mail memory unit storing the received electronic mail;

a mail status memory means for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein the each status of the mail status memory means indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each terminal device has been transmitted to the terminal device; and

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, and comprising a transmitting unit transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server

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to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by one of the plurality of terminal devices, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus integratedly manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail status corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

10. (CANCELED)

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12. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 9 further comprising:
process specifying means for specifying, for each terminal device, how the electronic mail transmitted to the terminal device should be processed.

13. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 12 further comprising:
means for receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device; and
means for transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

14. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said electronic managing apparatus is emergency processing means for judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail and, if judged to be affirmative, executing access to the mail server.

15. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 14 further comprising:

identifier memory means for storing therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices, and permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to the stored identifier.

16. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided in a telephone.

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17. (AS TWICE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing method in an electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address, comprising:

receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to a predetermined address;

storing the received electronic mail in a memory unit;

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storing in a status memory unit each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each status of the status memory unit indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each terminal devices has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, and transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said terminal device, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing method integrally manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail status corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

18. (CANCELED)

19. (CANCELED)

20. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 17 further comprising:

processing the received electronic mail based on a process specifying information specifying for each terminal device how the electronic mail transmitted to the respective terminal devices should be processed.

21. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 17 further comprising:

receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device;

and

transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

22. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 21 further comprising:

judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail; and

executing access to the mail server, if judged to be affirmative.

23. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 17 further comprising:

permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to a stored identifier, based on the information of an identifier memory unit which stores therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices.

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24. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A storage medium storing a program executing an electronic mail management in an information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, the program comprising:

receiving an electronic mail sent to a predetermined address from a mail server which stores therein the electronic mail addressed to an address;

storing the received electronic mail in a memory unit;

C5 storing in a status memory unit each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each status indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic electronic mail management for each terminal devices has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

transmitting the electronic mail stored in the memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said one of the plurality of terminal devices, wherein the electronic mail management is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices and wherein the electronic mail management integratedly manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail status corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

25. (CANCELED)

26. (CANCELED)

27. (AS ORIGINAL) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 24 further comprising:

processing the received electronic mail based on a process specifying information specifying for each terminal device how the electronic mail transmitted to the terminal device should be processed.

28. (AS ORIGINAL) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 24 further comprising:

receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device;

and

transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

29. (AS ORIGINAL) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 28 further comprising:

judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail; and

executing access to the mail server, if judged to be affirmative.

30. (AS ORIGINAL) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 24 further comprising:

permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to a stored identifier, based on the information of an identifier memory unit which stores therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices.

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31. (AS TWICE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing system comprising:

an electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address; and

a plurality of terminal devices capable of communicating with the electronic mail managing apparatus; and

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to a predetermined address;

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a mail memory unit storing therein the received electronic mail;
mail status memory means for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each status of the mail status memory unit indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each terminal device has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and
a transmitting unit transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said terminal device, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices and wherein the electronic mail management apparatus integrally manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail status corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

32. (CANCELED)

33. (CANCELED)

34. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:
process specifying means for specifying, for each terminal device, how the electronic mail transmitted to the respective terminal devices should be processed.

35. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:
means for receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device; and
means for transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

36. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic managing apparatus further comprising:
emergency processing means for judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail and, if judged to be affirmative, executing access to the mail server.

37. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:
identifier memory means for storing therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices, and permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to the stored identifier.

38. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is a telephone.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 10, 2001, claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 17, 24, and 31 were objected to because of informalities, claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112(2) as being indefinite, claims 1, 3, and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Wagner (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,102) in view of Wang (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,891), claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Wagner in view of Wang and further in view of Murakami (U.S. Patent No. 5,590,178), and claims 9, 12-17, 20-24, 27-31, and 34-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as